THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) The details of complaints received including of alleged misbehaviour by doctors and other staff members with VVIPs/VIPs and general public in Central Government Hospitals in Delhi *i.e.* Dr. RML Hospital, Safdarjung Hospital and Lady Hardinge Medical College and Associated Hospitals and All India Institute of Medical Sciences during the year 2002 are as under:-

Dr. RML Hospital	33
Safdarjung Hospital	16
Lady Hardinge Medical College and Associated Hospitals	9
All India Institute of Medical Sciences	7

Public Grievances Redressal Cell exists in these hospitals. After receipt of the complaints, the same are examined by a duly constituted committee for redressal and necessary corrective/punitive actions. The complaint boxes are also placed in the hospitals for easy accessibility of the general public. Further, the name, address and telephone number of Grievances Redressal Officer is also displayed in strategic location of each of the hospitals.

Setting up of an independent Pharmaceutical Regulatory Authority

1889. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a suggestion has been made in the Tenth Five Year Plan for setting up of an independent Pharmaceutical Regulatory Authority dealing with major issued such as drug pricing, quality control and licensing of drugs;

(b) if so, whether Government have agreed to implement the proposal;

(c) if so, the details of the same; and

(d) by when the action on the proposal is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Juvenile sex ratio

1890. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY:
SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Drop in juvenile sex ratio causes worry", which appeared in the Hindu, dated the 1st February, 2003;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether it is a fact that notwithstanding the legal environment, there is mushrooming growth of scan centres performing female infanticides resulting in alarming rise in such incidences throughout the country; and

(d) if so, the corrective action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir.

The news-item captioned, 'Drop in juvenile sex ratio causes worry', appeared in the Hindu dated 1.2.2003 referred to the mushrooming of scan centres in the country which were being utilized for sex selection and subsequent abortion of female foetus causing decline in the juvenile sex ratio. The report refers to the Census 2001, which showed a decline in child sex ratio (number of girls per 1000 boys) from 945 in 1991 to 927 in 2001. The situation is reported to be worse in the States/UT of Punjab, Haryana and Delhi having child sex ratio of 793, 820 and 915 respectively.

In order to contain the practice of female foeticide, the Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994, was brought into operation from 1.1.1996. The act prohibits determination and disclosure of the sex of foetus. The Act has since been amended with effect from 14th February, 2003 in order to make it more stringent.